

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A composition comprising a first oligomeric compound and a second oligomeric compound, wherein:

the first oligomeric compound is complementary to and capable of hybridizing to the second oligomeric compound;

~~the first oligomeric compound is complementary to and capable of hybridizing and~~ to a selected target nucleic acid,

~~one of the first and second oligomeric compounds comprises a plurality of linked nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups, and~~

~~the other~~ at least one of the first and second oligomeric compounds comprises a plurality of ~~linked~~ nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups wherein ~~essentially~~ each of the nucleosides ~~is~~ has a 2' group that is other than 2'-OH and ~~have~~ has 3'-endo conformational geometry, ~~and wherein at least one of the nucleosides having 3'-endo conformational geometry is~~ a 2'-fluoro modified nucleoside comprising a purine heterocyclic base;

each of the first and second oligomeric compounds independently comprises from about 12 to about 30 nucleosides; and

~~wherein~~ the composition optionally further comprises one or more phosphate groups, overhangs, stabilizing groups or conjugate groups.

2. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the first oligomeric compound comprises the plurality of ~~linked~~ nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups wherein ~~essentially~~ each of the nucleosides ~~is~~ has a 2' group that is other than 2'-OH and ~~have~~ has 3'-endo conformational geometry.

3. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the second oligomeric compound comprises the plurality of ~~linked~~ nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups wherein

~~essentially~~ each of the nucleosides is has a 2' group that is other than 2'-OH and ~~have~~ has 3'-endo conformational geometry.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the nucleosides of the second oligomeric compound comprise a  $\beta$ -D-ribofuranose sugar group.

6. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the 3'-terminus of the first oligomeric compound comprises a stabilizing group.

7. (previously presented) The composition of claim 6 wherein the stabilizing group is a capping group or a dTdT dimer.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the first oligomeric compound comprises a 5'-phosphate group.

10-13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the internucleoside linking groups of the first and second oligomeric compounds is, independently, a phosphodiester or a phosphorothioate.

15-19. (canceled).

20. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the 3'-terminus of the second oligomeric compound comprises a stabilizing or conjugate group.

21. (previously presented) The composition of claim 20 wherein the stabilizing group is a capping group or a dTdT dimer.

22. (previously presented) The composition of claim 20 wherein the 3'-terminus of the second oligomeric compound comprises a conjugate group.

23-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the nucleosides of the first and second oligomeric compounds ~~have~~ has 3'-endo conformational geometry.

27-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the nucleosides that ~~are~~ is other than 2'-OH and ~~have~~ has 3'-endo conformational geometry comprises a 2'-substituent group independently, selected from -F, -O-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-O-CH<sub>3</sub>, -O-CH<sub>3</sub>, -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-O-N(R<sub>j</sub>)(R<sub>j</sub>), -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-N(R<sub>j</sub>)(R<sub>j</sub>), -O-CH<sub>2</sub>-C(=O)-N(R<sub>j</sub>)(R<sub>j</sub>), -O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH=CH<sub>2</sub> ~~or~~ and -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-NH(R<sub>j</sub>) where each R<sub>j</sub> is, independently, H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl.

31-38. (canceled)

39. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the first and the second oligomeric compounds are a complementary pair of siRNA oligonucleotides.

40. (previously presented) The composition of claim 39 wherein the first and the second oligomeric compounds have 3'-dTdT overhangs.

41. (previously presented) The composition of claim 39 wherein the first and the second oligomeric compounds have blunt ends.

42. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 further comprising at least one terminal cap moiety.

43. (previously presented) The composition of claim 42 wherein the terminal cap moiety is attached to one or both of the 3'-terminal and 5'-terminal ends of the second oligomeric compound.

44. (previously presented) The composition of claim 43 wherein the terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.

45-48. (canceled).

49. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second oligomeric compounds has from about 12 to about 24 nucleosides.

50. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second oligomeric compounds has from about 19 to about 23 nucleosides.

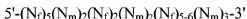
51-52. (canceled)

53. (withdrawn) A method of reducing target messenger RNA comprising contacting one or more cells, a tissue or an animal with a composition of claim 1.

54. (currently amended) The composition of claim 2 wherein each of the ~~nucleoside~~ nucleosides having 3'-endo conformational geometry comprises a 2'-F or 2'-O-CH<sub>3</sub> substituent group ~~2'-substituent group independently selected from -F and -O-CH<sub>3</sub>.~~

55. (currently amended) The composition of claim 54 wherein at least 7 of the nucleosides having 3'-endo conformational geometry comprises a 2'-O-CH<sub>3</sub> substituent group ~~2'-substituent groups are -O-CH<sub>3</sub> and at least 12 of the nucleosides having 3'-endo conformational geometry comprises a 2'-F substituent group~~ 2'-substituent groups are -F.

56. (currently amended) The composition of claim 55 wherein the first oligomeric compound ~~comprises is a compound of~~ the formula:



wherein:

each N<sub>f</sub> is a 2'-F modified nucleoside; and

each N<sub>m</sub> is a 2'-OCH<sub>3</sub> modified nucleoside.